

BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



August 2015

Welcome to the monthly Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter provided by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Program in Bioethics and Humanities: *Our Mission*

We are committed to helping healthcare professionals explore and understand the increasingly complex ethical questions that have been brought on by advances in medical technology and the health care system. We achieve this through education, research, and service within the Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa Health Care, University of Iowa, and the wider Iowa community.

[More Details About The Program](#)



Program Highlight

[Meet One of Our Ethics Consultants](#)

Karl Thomas, MD



Dr. Thomas is an Affiliate Faculty in the Program in Bioethics and Humanities and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. Dr. Thomas received his M.D. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Stanford University and Pulmonary / Critical Care fellowship at the University of Iowa. He has been a faculty member at the University of Iowa since 2001. Dr. Thomas has maintained an interest in clinical ethics education since 2004 and received a certificate of training in clinical bioethics in 2014 from the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City, MO. Dr. Thomas is an active clinical faculty who serves as a consultant on the Ethics Consultation Service and practices critical care medicine and interventional bronchoscopy. In addition to his role in clinical medicine, Dr. Thomas serves as a Vice Chair in the Department of Internal Medicine and maintains an active role in medical education.

Upcoming Events

For a listing of upcoming events related to bioethics and humanities, please click [here](#).

Quotation of the Month

We argue that health-care professionals can sometimes share genetic information [with relatives] without breaching confidentiality and that they could factor into their considerations the potential harm to family dynamics of nondisclosure. However, we need more nuanced research about their responsibilities to relatives, particularly as genomic tests are used more frequently in clinical practice.

Dheensa et al. (for more, see [Genet Med](#); 2015)

Publication Highlight

[Committee opinion no. 633: Alcohol abuse and other substance use disorders: ethical issues in obstetric and gynecologic practice.](#)

Ginny Ryan, MD, MA, an Affiliate Faculty member in the Program, is primary author on this American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Ethics paper.

Alcohol abuse and other substance use disorders are major, often underdiagnosed health problems for women, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, and have resulting high costs for individuals and society. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, defines substance use disorder as a pathologic pattern of behaviors related to the use of any of 10 separate classes of substances, including alcohol and licit and illicit substances. In order to optimize care of patients with substance use disorder, obstetrician-gynecologists are encouraged to learn and appropriately use routine screening techniques, clinical laboratory tests, brief interventions, and treatment referrals. The purpose of this Committee Opinion is to propose an ethical framework for incorporating such care into obstetric and gynecologic practice and for resolving common ethical dilemmas related to substance use disorder.

This service is a resource for patients, family members, or health professionals at UIHC who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered by UIHC clinicians through EPIC. Consults can also be requested by calling (319) 356-1616 and asking for the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [please click here.](#)

Resource Highlight



[Palliative Care: Conversations Matter®](#)

In January 2014, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), part of the National Institutes of Health, publically launched *Palliative Care: Conversations Matter®*, an evidence-based communications campaign to increase awareness of and improve communications around pediatric palliative care. To develop the *Palliative Care: Conversations Matter®* campaign, NINR brought together parents and palliative care clinicians, scientists, and professionals to give their input and expertise on what they felt was needed in the field. The first phase of the campaign includes materials designed to assist health care providers with starting and continuing conversations about pediatric palliative care with their patients and patients' families. NINR is currently implementing a second phase of the campaign which focuses on patients, and their parents and families to raise awareness and empower families to begin a dialogue with health care providers.

Clinical Research Ethics Consultation Service

We provide free consultation on ethical issues related to research design, tissue banking, genetic research results, informed consent, and working with vulnerable patient populations. In particular, we assist clinical investigators in identifying and addressing the ethical challenges that frequently arise when designing or conducting research with human subjects. These include ethical challenges in sampling design; randomized and placebo-controlled studies; participant recruitment and informed consent; return of individual-level research results; community engagement processes; and more. For more information, [please click here.](#)

Bioethics in the Literature

- Medicare opens up the end-of-life conversation. [Lancet](#). 2015 Jul; 386: 220.
- Bromwich D, Rid A. Can informed consent to research be adapted to risk? [J Med Ethics](#). 2015 Jul; 41: 521-528.
- Dheensa S, Fenwick A, Shkedi-Rafid S, et al. Health-care professionals' responsibility to patients' relatives in genetic medicine: A systematic review and synthesis of empirical research. [Genet Med](#). 2015 Jun 25. [Epub ahead of print].
- Morreim H. Candor about adverse events: Physicians versus the data bank. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2015 Jul; 45: 9-10.
- Parens E. Drifting away from informed consent in the era of personalized medicine. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2015 Jul; 45: 16-20.
- Prah Ruger J. Good medical ethics, justice and provincial globalism. [J Med Ethics](#). 2015 Jan; 41: 103-106.
- Rasool D, Kihlgren A, James I, et al. What healthcare teams find ethically difficult: Captured in 70 moral case deliberations. [Nurs Ethics](#). 2015 May 19. [Epub ahead of print].
- Rosenbaum L. Conflicts of interest: part 1: Reconnecting the dots--reinterpreting industry-physician relations. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 May; 372: 1860-1864.
- Rubin R. Improving the quality of life at the end of life. [JAMA](#). 2015 Jun; 313: 2110-2112.
- You JJ, Downar J, Fowler RA, et al. Barriers to goals of care discussions with seriously ill hospitalized patients and their families: A multicenter survey of clinicians. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2015 Apr; 175: 549-556.



A Call For Papers

[The Rutgers Journal of Bioethics](#)

DEADLINE: August 30, 2015

The Rutgers Journal of Bioethics is now accepting papers for their Fall issue. Some example topics are medical treatment, biological warfare, research ethics, medical sociology, social justice, history of medicine/science, medical case analysis, eugenics, gene therapy, human cloning, medical malpractice, and healthcare policy. Please click [here](#) if you would like to browse through past issues.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR SUBMISSION:

Cover Sheet: Article title, author name(s), institutional affiliation, date of submission, abstract and contact information (e-mail, phone number and mailing address).

Submissions: Papers should be submitted as Microsoft Word Documents (.doc/.docx), in double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font. The following types of papers will be accepted: opinion editorials (1-3 pages in length), long and short book reviews (1-10 pages, include bibliographic information on book) and research papers (6-15 pages in length of content, not including citations).

Citations: Please use the style guidelines outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA).

ATTACH YOUR SUBMISSION AS AN E-MAIL TO:

rubioethics.journ@gmail.com

ATTN: ARTICLE SUBMISSION

To unsubscribe from the Bioethics and Humanities monthly Newsletter, [please click here](#).

Laura Shinkunas
Editor, Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter
Program in Bioethics and Humanities
500 Newton Road, 1-110 MEB
(319) 384-4654
laura-shinkunas@uiowa.edu